

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application prior to this Amendment.

Claims 3 and 9-17 were canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of any of the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Claims 8, 19 and 20 were amended to correct a clerical error. Claims 21-24 were added. No new matter has been added and the amendments and new claims are fully supported and justified by the specification. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 18-24 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 3, 8-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 18 are allowed.

Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 3 and 9-17 are moot in view of their cancellation. Applicants

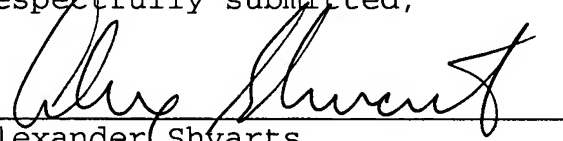
therefore respectfully request that their respective rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 19 and 20 were amended to correct a clerical error that led to a lack of antecedent basis as pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

New claims 21-24 are allowable because they depend from allowed claims 1 and 2.

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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